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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus comprising:
 - input means for inputting reduced image information of image data;
 - 5 analysis means for analyzing the reduced image information;
 - setting means for setting a correction parameter of the image data on the basis of an analysis result; and
 - 10 correction means for correcting the image data on the basis of the correction parameter.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means inputs the reduced image information contained in a file of the image data.
3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein 15 the reduced image information is reduced image data.
4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said apparatus further comprises display means for displaying the image data, and
20 the reduced image data is a preview image displayed on said display means prior to the image data.
5. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the reduced image information is a pointer for reduced image data.
6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein 25 said apparatus further comprises printing means for printing and outputting the image data corrected by said

correction means, and

the correction parameter is a parameter for printing of the image data.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein
5 said setting means generates a table on the basis of the correction parameter.
8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein
the table is a color look-up table.
9. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein
10 the correction parameter is a gamma correction parameter.
10. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said apparatus further comprises reduced image generation means for generating reduced image data on the
15 basis of the reduced image information input by said input means, and
said analysis means analyzes the reduced image data generated by said reduced image generation means.
11. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
20 said apparatus further comprises instruction means for instructing one of automatic setting and manual setup for image data correction processing, and
when said instruction means instructs automatic setting, said analysis means searches for image information
25 to be analyzed in a predetermined order and analyzes searched image information.

12. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein
said analysis means searches for a gamma correction
tag and a reduced image of the image data in the order named.
13. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein
5 when neither the gamma correction tag nor the reduced
image of the image data are searched, said analysis means
analyzes the image data itself.
14. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein
the image data has a gamma correction-value in one
10 of an information tag and a resource file in a self file.
15. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein
when said instruction means instructs manual setup,
said instruction means further sets the correction
parameter.
- 15 16. The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein
said instruction means simultaneously sets a gamma
correction value and a color look-up table as correction
parameters.
17. The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein
20 said instruction means sets a reference average value
of pixels and a correction intensity as correction
parameters.
18. The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein
said instruction means sets upper and lower limit
25 values of correction as correction parameters.
19. An image processing method applied to an apparatus

capable of storing a plurality of files where image data is recorded, comprising:

a search step of searching a file corresponding to satisfying a predetermined condition;

5 a calculation step of analyzing image data stored in the file and calculating a correction parameter; and

a control step of controlling said calculation step at an execution timing set according to user's designation.

20. The image processing method according to claim 19,
10 wherein the predetermined condition used in said search step is set according to user's designation, and the predetermined condition includes a type of file or a date condition or both.

21. The image processing method according to claim 19,
15 further comprising an addition step of adding the correction parameter to the file.

22. The image processing method according to claim 19,
further comprising a setting step of setting a condition to be used in said calculation step in accordance with user's
20 designation.

23. A recording medium comprising program codes of an image processing method, at least comprising:

code means of a search step for searching a file corresponding to satisfying a predetermined condition;

25 code means of a calculation step for analyzing image data stored in the file and calculating a correction

parameter; and

code means of a control step for controlling said calculation step at an execution timing set according to user's designation.

5 24. An image processing apparatus comprising:

holding means for holding image data in a predetermined file format;

analysis means for analyzing the image data;

10 calculation means for calculating a correction parameter of the image data on the basis of an analysis result; and

addition means for adding the correction parameter to a file of the image data.

25. The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein

15 said addition means adds the correction parameter as extension tag information of the file.

26. The apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising:

20 correction means for correcting the image data on the basis of the tag information of the correction parameter added by said addition means.

27. The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein

25 said apparatus further comprises printing means for printing and outputting the image data corrected by said correction means, and

the correction parameter is a parameter for printing

of the image data.

28. The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein
the correction parameter is a gamma correction
parameter.

5 29. The apparatus according to claim 24, further
comprising:
setting means for setting the image data from a
plurality of image data as data to be processed.

30. The apparatus according to claim 24, further
10 comprising:
setting means for setting a series of execution
schedules of said analysis means, said calculation means,
and said addition means.

31. The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein
15 said apparatus further comprises setting means for
setting a detailed parameter for determining the correction
parameter, and
said correction means calculates a correction
parameter on the basis of the detailed parameter set by said
20 setting means and corrects the image data on the basis of
the correction parameter.

32. The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein
said apparatus further comprises selection means for
selecting, as a parameter to be used, one of the correction
25 parameter added by said addition means and the correction
parameter based on the detailed parameter set by said

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setting means, and

 said correction means corrects the image data on the basis of the correction parameter selected by said selection means.

5 33. The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein
 the detailed parameter includes ~~one~~ of an average
 density value, a correction range, and a correction
 intensity.

10 34. An image processing method comprising:
 an input step of inputting an image file;
 a determination step of determining whether or not the
 image file includes preview image information;
 a setting step of, in a case where the image file
 includes preview image information, analyzing the preview
15 image information and setting an image processing condition;
 and

20 a generation step of, in a case where the image file
 does not include preview image information, generating
 preview image information from original image information
 stored in the image file,

 wherein the preview image information has a smaller
 amount of data than that of the original image information.

35. The image processing method according to claim 34,
 wherein in said setting step, the image processing condition
25 is set as an extension tag information of the image file.

36. The image processing method according to claim 35,

further comprising a correction step of performing correction processing on the image information based on the tag information as an image processing condition.

37. A recording medium comprising program codes of an
5 image processing method, at least comprising:

code means of an input step of inputting an image file;
code means of a determination step of determining
whether or not the image file includes preview image
information;

10 code means of a setting step of, in a case where the image file includes preview image information, analyzing the preview image information and setting an image processing condition; and

code means of a generation step of, in a case where
15 the image file does not include preview image information,
generating preview image information from original image
information stored in the image file.

wherein the preview image information has a smaller amount of data than that of the original image information.